



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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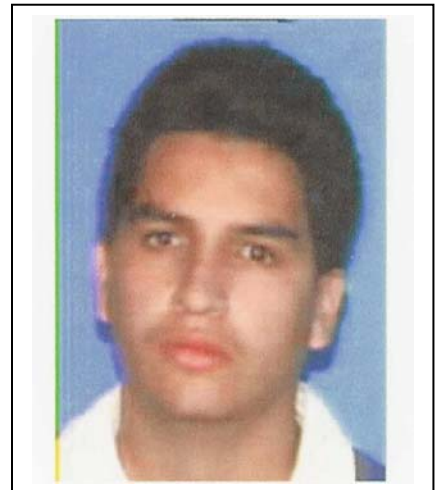
# News Release

## **ICE SEX PREDATOR SCHEDULED FOR DEPORTATION**

*Internet liaison leads to guilty plea for 25-year-old man after luring 14 year old girl on-line*

ST. BERNARD, La.—A Kenner, La., resident and Honduran national who was convicted for indecency with a 14 year-old girl is being processed for deportation following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Gustavo Gomez, 25, was sentenced April 5 by State District Judge Manny Fernandez for indecent behavior with a juvenile to a three-year suspended sentence, a \$2000 fine, and mandatory registration as a sex offender. The parents of the 14-year-old girl said they learned firsthand how easy it was for adult sexual predators to use the Internet to lie about their age to meet juveniles. Gomez pushed the girl's mother aside when she discovered him hiding in her daughter's bedroom closet.



The man, who had met the teenager in an Internet chat room, pretended to be 18 years old and had previously visited the teen in her home. He fled through a window when confronted by the mother. He was caught because he left his vehicle near the girl's home with his identification inside. The girl was surprised to learn that the man was actually 25 years old, authorities said at the time of the arrest.

"He shoved me to the side," the mother said Tuesday in state District Court in Chalmette. Gomez pleaded guilty to indecent behavior with a juvenile. The girl's parents agreed to the reduced charge and suspended sentence, saying it was most important to them that Gomez be required to register as a sex offender and notify people living near him. They also wanted to spare their daughter the trauma of testifying if the case had gone to trial.

Parents need to be aware of how easy it is for adult predators to pretend to be younger to meet juveniles, the mother said. Parental control software for computers designed to filter certain suspicious information didn't protect her family from what happened, she said. Authorities said that after meeting the girl on the Internet, Gomez learned where she lived and visited her at home several times when her parents weren't there. Gomez allegedly had oral sex with the girl in June. Eleven days later he visited the girl again, entering the home through a bedroom window while her parents were home, authorities said. While the girl was out of the bedroom, her mother went inside, heard a noise from the closet and found Gomez hiding there, she said.

As a convicted criminal alien and sexual predator, Gomez is required to be placed into deportation proceedings.

“Sexual predators will be held accountable for their crimes,” said Michael A. Holt, ICE New Orleans special agent-in-charge. “ICE will continue to work aggressively with all law enforcement agencies to hold accountable those who prey on the most vulnerable in our society.”

This arrest is part of ICE’s Operation Predator, a comprehensive national initiative to protect young people from sexual predators. Operation Predator targets human traffickers, international sex tourists, Internet pornographers and foreign national predators whose crimes make them deportable. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 5,100 individuals nationwide, and deported more than 2,100 foreign nationals. In Louisiana, 22 arrests have been made under Operation Predator thus far.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the web at [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov). ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

#ICE#

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*